Sherrill Adams: Inaugural TCPW-Provost Award

The Office of the Provost and the Trustees Council of Penn Women announced that Dr. Sherrill Adams, professor of biochemistry in the School of Dental Medicine, is the inaugural recipient of their joint Award of Recognition for significant contributions by Penn faculty to advancing the role of women in higher education and research at Penn. Dr. Adams has taught at Penn for more than 30 years, served as Chair of both the Faculty Senate and the biochemistry department in the School of Dental Medicine, and won the Lindback Award, Penn’s highest University-wide teaching honor, in 2002.

In making its selection from a group of extremely strong nominations, the award committee took note of Dr. Adams’ longstanding advocacy for gender equity across campus, wide-ranging service to Penn, and public and private mentorship of women faculty, including the establishment of a formal mentorship program for junior faculty in the School of Dental Medicine. She will receive the award, which includes a $5,000 honorarium, at a ceremony on April 8.

The Selection Committee for the Award included: Professors Rita Barnard, SAS; Lisa Bellini, SOM; Clifford Deutchman, SOM; Antonella Grassi, SAS; Susan Margulies, SEAS; and Walter Wales, SAS.

2010 Baccalaureate Speaker: Mitch Albom

Mitch Albom, an internationally renowned and best-selling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster and musician, will be Penn’s guest speaker for the Baccalaureate Ceremony on Sunday, May 16. The Baccalaureate Ceremony is a 50-minute interfaith program that includes music, readings, prayers, and a guest speaker. Two consecutive ceremonies will be held in Irvine Auditorium, in order to accommodate all those who wish to attend. Students whose last names begin with A through K are invited to attend the 1:30 p.m. ceremony. Students whose last names begin with L through Z are invited to attend the 3 p.m. ceremony.

Mr. Albom’s books have collectively sold over 28 million copies worldwide; have been published in 41 territories and in 42 languages around the world; and have been made into Emmy Award-winning and critically-acclaimed television movies.

He is the author of ten books, including the newest, Have a Little Faith. His first novel, The Five People You Meet in Heaven, 2003, is the most successful US hardback first novel ever and has to date sold over 11 million copies worldwide. Tuesdays With Morrie, (1997) his chronicle of time spent with a beloved but dying college professor, spent four years on the NY Times bestseller list and is now the most successful memoir ever published. His three best sellers, including For One More Day, 2006, have been turned into successful TV movies. Oprah Winfrey produced the film version of Tuesdays With Morrie in 1999, starring Jack Lemmon and Hank Azaria. The film garnered four Emmy awards, including best film, direction, writing, and supporting actor. The critically acclaimed Five People You Meet in Heaven aired on ABC in 2004. Directed by Lloyd Kramer, the film was the most watched TV movie of the year, with 19 million viewers. Most recently, Oprah Winfrey Presents Mitch Albom’s For One More Day aired on ABC in 2007 and earned Ellen Burstyn a Screen Actors Guild nomination.

An award-winning journalist and radio host, Mr. Albom wrote the screenplay for both For One More Day and The Five People You Meet in Heaven, (co-written with Jeffrey Hacker) which has seen over 100 productions across the US and Canada.

Mr. Albom has founded four charities, many in the metropolitan Detroit area: The Dream Fund, A Time To Help, and S.A.Y. Detroit, an umbrella organization for charities dedicated to improving the lives of the neediest, including the S.A.Y. Detroit Family Health Clinic. His most recent effort, A Hole in the Roof Foundation, helps faith groups of every denomination who care for the homeless repair the spaces in which they carry out their work. The seed that gave root to the Foundation—and also inspired its name—was the hole in the roof of the I Am My Brother’s Keeper church in inner-city Detroit, written about in Have a Little Faith. Mr. Albom devoted an area of his website, www.mitchalbom.com/service, to hosting a directory of local and national service opportunities. He also raises money for literacy projects through a variety of means including his performances with The Rock Bottom Remainders, a band made up of writers which includes Stephen King, Dave Barry, Scott Turow, Amy Tan and Ridley Pearson. Mr. Albom is the recipient of various charitable awards and, in 1999, was named National Hospice Organization’s Man of the Year.

In 2010, Mr. Albom was named the recipient of the Red Smith Award for lifetime achievement by the Associated Press Sports Editors.
COUNCIL

Section IV.4(c) of the Council Bylaws provides that a University Council meeting “shall incorporate an open forum to which all members of the University community are invited and during which any member of the University community can direct questions to the Council.” All members of the University community are invited to bring issues for discussion to the University Council Open Forum Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 4-6 p.m. Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall

Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by Wednesday, March 24, 2010. Please indicate the topic you would like to discuss. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers.

Please see the format given below. Questions may be directed to the Office of the University Secretary at (215) 898-7005 or ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu. —Office of the University Secretary

Format for University Council’s Open Forum

The University Council will devote a substantial portion of its March 31, 2010 meeting to a public forum. The purpose of the Open Forum is to inform Council of issues important to the University’s general welfare and of the range of views held by members of the University. The forum is open to all members of the University community under the conditions set by the Bylaws, following guidelines established by the Steering Committee of Council:

1. Any member of the University community who wishes to do so may attend the Council meeting. Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council, however, must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by Wednesday, March 24, 2010, indicating briefly the subject of their remarks. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers.

2. Speakers should expect to be limited to three minutes with the possibility of additional time in cases where members of Council engage the speakers with follow-up questions or remarks. The Moderator may restrict repetition of views. Speakers are encouraged to provide Council with supporting materials and/or written extensions of their statements before, during, or after the Council meeting.

3. Following the deadline for speakers to sign up in the Office of the University Secretary, the Chair of Steering and the Moderator of Council will structure the subject matter themes, speakers, and times for the Open Forum session. In the event that there is not enough time available at the meeting to provide for all those who have requested to speak, the two officers may make selections which accommodate the broadest array of issues having important implications for Council’s work and represent the breadth of Council’s constituencies. The resulting order of the Open Forum of University Council will be made available no later than the Tuesday before the meeting, to be published on the Office of the University Secretary website (www.upenn.edu/secretary/council/openforum.html) and, if deadline constraints allow, in The Daily Pennsylvanian and Almanac.

4. Speakers’ statements should be framed so as to present policy issues and directed to University Council as a body through the Moderator. The Moderator will have discretion to interrupt statements that are directed against persons and otherwise to maintain the decorum of the meeting, as provided for in the Bylaws. In cases where a statement can be appropriately presented by members of Council, or where a colloquy would seem to be productive given the time constraints of the meeting, the Moderator may recognize members of Council to respond to speakers’ statements, with opportunities for follow-up by the speakers.

Distinguished International Scholars Program: Deadline Extended

The Office of the Provost has extended the deadline for applications to the Distinguished International Scholars Program to April 2, 2010. In light of the recent visit to China by President Amy Gutmann and Penn faculty members, we especially encourage faculty to propose visits from scholars at our partner universities in China.

Committee on Open Access Publishing

Provost Vincent Price and Senior Vice Provost for Research Steven J. Fluharty have appointed a Committee on Open Access Publishing, comprised of faculty and ex officio staff from across the University. The Committee is examining the status of open access publishing practices and will make recommendations by the end of the academic year regarding how the University might establish policies to better serve the Penn community and the general public. The Committee was formed in response to the opportunity for broad and immediate access to information provided by the Internet; existing and potential requirements of federal funding agencies that research results be made available through open access repositories; the desire of Penn faculty to widely and quickly disseminate their scholarly work; the changing business dynamics of scholarly publishing and professional societies; and the adoption of open access publishing policies at peer institutions. The Committee is considering these developments as well as other relevant issues as it formulates its recommendations.

The Committee is chaired by Kevin Werbach (The Wharton School), and includes Peter Decherney (School of Arts and Sciences), Marjorie Bowman (School of Medicine), Al Filreis (School of Arts and Sciences), J. Matthew Hartley (Graduate School of Education), John B. Hogeschen (School of Medicine), Gary A. Molander (School of Arts and Sciences), Jonathan M. Smith (School of Engineering and Applied Science), R. Polk Wagner (Law School), Terri E. Weaver (School of Nursing), Rachel Waynberger (School of Design), and Mandy Shoemaker (Graduate Student). Ex Officio members of the Committee are Robert Firestone, (Office of General Counsel), Eric Halpern (Penn Press), and H. Carton Rogers (Penn Libraries). The Committee is staffed by Josie Rook (Office of the Vice Provost for Research).

The Committee welcomes input from the Penn community. Should you be interested in offering comments or suggestions please e-mail coap@exchange.upenn.edu.

Deaths

A Celebration of the Life of John W. McCoubrey

A memorial gathering will be held for John W. McCoubrey, professor emeritus of the history of art, on Saturday, April 3 at 3 p.m. The memorial will be held in the Ben Franklin Room on the second floor of Houston Hall. Dr. McCoubrey passed away February 6, at age 86 (Almanac February 16, 2010). Contributions in Dr. McCoubrey’s honor can be sent to the Campbell-McCoubrey Traveler Fund, History of Art Department, University of Pennsylvania. For information, call Brooke Seitinsons: (215) 746-2066.

Mr. Webb, Biology

Rodney F. Webb, building administrator for the biology department, passed away February 17; he was 44.

Mr. Webb grew up in Philadelphia and attended West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys, and later the Wharton School. He was first employed by the department of biology as a part-time summer worker during his high school years; he began working full-time as a shipping and receiving clerk in 1983. As his proficiency grew, Mr. Webb progressed rapidly from building services assistant in 1985, to building supervisor in 1986, to building administrator in 1991. The office of the biology chair commented that, “Mr. Webb possessed an encyclopedic knowledge about the care and feeding of complex science buildings. With unceasing cheer and infinite diplomacy, he educated no fewer than six biology chairs on everything from plumbing to fume hoods to animal care. His expertise was even more remarkable when one considers that his five buildings varied greatly in age from Leidy Labs (opened in 1910) to Lynch Labs (opened in 2006).”

“Mr. Webb will be remembered for his good humor and optimism, ability to solve even the most complex building problems, and his desire always to achieve only the best outcome for all biology faculty, students, and staff.”

Mr. Webb was active in community service, and mentored at St. Gabriel’s Home for Boys. His love of sports led him to coach basketball at Saint Joseph’s Preparatory School, Narberth’s Summer Basketball League, and Widener University.

Mr. Webb is survived by his son, Maurice Garrett; his siblings, Lesley Easley, Lynne Bard, Kathryn Trimble, and Daniel Saunders; and a host of aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and co-workers “who will all mourn his passing along with those of us at Penn fortunate enough to have called him a friend.”

A memorial service will be held for Mr. Webb on Friday, April 2 in Leidy Labs, Room 10 at 11:15 a.m.

To Report A Death: Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students, and other members of the University community. Call (215) 898-5274 or e-mail almanac@upenn.edu.
Penn Forum for Women Faculty: Lecture and Networking—March 25

The University community is invited to attend an important lecture and discussion on Mirages of Equality: Progress of Women in Science at MIT, 1971-2009, by Nancy Hopkins, Apgen, Inc. Professor of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The event will be held on Thursday, March 25, at 3:30 p.m. in the Ann L. Roy Auditorium, Claire Fagin Hall, School of Nursing. It is jointly sponsored by the Trustees Council of Penn Women and the Forum for Women Faculty.

Dr. Hopkins is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She chaired MIT’s first Committee on Women Faculty in the School of Science. The committee’s 1999 report led to the examination of gender equity issues at MIT and ultimately at many other academic institutions. More recently, Dr. Hopkins served on a committee of the National Academy of Sciences that published the report Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering in 2007. This report called for a more aggressive approach to overcoming gender bias, in the interest of both fairness and academic competitiveness in the global market.

The Penn Forum for Women Faculty was created by women faculty for women faculty; our mission is to build a community of women scholars that enrich the University of Pennsylvania by:

• Advocating for policies and practices that promote equity for women faculty
• Creating opportunities for education, professional skills building, networking, and cross-school and cross-disciplinary interactions for women faculty
• Providing advice to Penn’s administration on matters of significance to women faculty
• Enhancing Penn’s visibility as a welcoming community for women faculty
• Engaging with prominent women scholars and colleagues at other institutions to identify best practices for enhancing opportunities for women faculty
• Developing initiatives and programming for sharing with women faculty nationwide

Contact Forum forum@pobox.upenn.edu www.library.upenn.edu

2009-2011 Forum Council Members:

Stephanie Abbuhi, SOM; Sherri Adams, Dental, Forum President; Anita Allen, Law; Marjorie Bowman, SOM; Lois Evan, Nursing; Annette Fierro, Design; Vivian Gadsden, GSE; Olena Jacenko, Vet; Marsha Lester, SAS; Janice Madden, SAS; Susan Margulies, SEAS, Forum Vice-President; Nancy Rothbard, Wharton; Katherine Sender, Annenberg; Claudia Valezeg, SAS; Irene Wong, SP2.

—Sherri Adams, Forum President

Participating in Penn’s 7th Annual Relay For Life: March 26-27

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society’s signature fundraising event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. The event is held at Penn overnight on Franklin Field and participants form teams that take turns walking around the track all night to symbolize that cancer never sleeps. The event includes food, games, live entertainment, and celebrations. This year’s event is scheduled for March 26-27 from 8 p.m. through 8 a.m. The 2009 event had over 1,800 participants and raised over $135,000. It was the largest collegiate Relay in the state and fifth largest in the nation. Come join Penn students, faculty members, and residents of West Philadelphia. The Relay For Life Planning Committee is especially interested in inviting faculty and staff to this year’s event. The involvement of the faculty and staff will greatly enhance this event, making it one of the few campus events that involves the entire Penn community at-large. It is a family-friendly event and children are encouraged to attend as well.

The 2009 event had over 1,800 participants and raised over $37,000! We encourage you to consider forming a team with your colleagues, joining the Penn Faculty and Staff Team, stopping by the event, or donating online at www.relayatpenn.org. Please help us reach our goal of 2,000 participants and $180,000 raised. If you (or someone you know) is a cancer survivor, we’d like to honor and celebrate you at our event.

To find out how survivors can become involved in this year’s Relay For Life, visit www.relayatpenn.org. Questions? Contact pennerelayforlife@gmail.com

—Andrea Cestaro and Michele Lewkowitz, 2010 Event Chairs, Relay For Life at Penn

Penn Libraries to Relocate Off-Campus Shelving Facility and Open New Research Annex (LIBRA)

For more than a decade, library shelves on Penn’s campus have been at capacity. Since 1998, the Libraries have accommodated new acquisitions by transferring lesser-used volumes to a high density storage facility, a leased space at 30th and Market Streets. This facility, currently housing some 1.4 million volumes, is now full, and the lessor, Drexel University, has announced alternate plans for developing the property. Beginning in the fall of 2010, the Libraries will move this off-campus collection to a new facility in Deptford, NJ to be known as the Penn Libraries Research Annex (LIBRA). The selection of this site concludes more than a year of effort by the Libraries and University Facilities and Real Estate Services to find a cost-efficient, adaptable, and long term space to accommodate Penn’s growing library collections, and facilitate rapid delivery of materials in both physical and electronic form.

Expedited retrieval and delivery of print volumes and free digitization of journal articles will be available during the transition, which is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010. These services will continue when LIBRA re-opens in January of 2011, and a new reading room will accommodate researchers who choose to consult materials on-site.

For more information, and to share comments and questions, please see: www.library.upenn.edu/libra, or contact Bob Krall, director of Departmental Libraries, Resource Sharing & Delivery Services at kralrb@upenn.edu, or (215) 573-3626.
Benefits Open Enrollment 2010-2011
Monday, April 5—Friday, April 16

Benefits Open Enrollment, your annual opportunity to make changes to your healthcare elections, is almost here! Even if you’re satisfied with your current healthcare coverage, it’s important to understand what changes are being made for the upcoming plan year. And don’t miss the opportunity to find out what Penn’s other plans have to offer. Open Enrollment runs from Monday, April 5 through midnight on Friday, April 16. You should receive a personalized enrollment packet at your home address in early April. Visit the Human Resources website at www.hr.upenn.edu for more details about Open Enrollment.

How Do I Make Changes During Benefits Open Enrollment?
You can make changes to your benefits coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online at www.pennbenefits.upenn.edu. Once you provide your PennKey and password, the online system will walk you through the enrollment process step-by-step. If you don’t have online access or are having problems enrolling online, contact the Penn Benefits Center at 1-888-PENN-BEN (1-888-736-6236), Monday–Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Keep in mind if you’re newly eligible for benefits or making changes to your current plan year elections between now and May 15, 2010, you’ll need to enroll twice: once to newly elect or change your benefits for the current plan year (through June 30), and then again to elect your coverage for the next plan year (starting July 1). Be sure to follow the instructions completely when you log on to enroll.

What Can I Change During Benefits Open Enrollment?
From April 5–April 16, you can make any changes you’d like to your benefits coverage, such as:
• Enroll in a health care plan for the first time, or drop an existing plan
• Switch to a new or different medical or dental plan
• Increase or decrease your life insurance coverage
• Change how much you contribute to a Pre-Tax Expense Account
• Add or drop a dependent from your benefits coverage*

*If you add a new dependent or re-enroll a dependent who was previously covered, you will receive a letter requesting that you provide verification of that dependent’s eligibility under Penn’s plan rules.

When Will Changes Be Effective?
Any changes made during Benefits Open Enrollment will be effective as of July 1, 2010. Outside of Open Enrollment, you may only modify your elections when you experience a life event change—such as marriage or the birth of a child—and even then, the IRS limits the types of changes you are allowed to make.

What Happens if I Don’t Make Changes to My Benefits Coverage During Open Enrollment?
If you don’t make changes to your benefits coverage by April 16:
• Your current coverage will continue into the new plan year (July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011). All plan changes will take effect on July 1, 2010.
• New rates for your existing medical, dental, and vision plans will be reflected in your June paycheck.
• If you’re covering a dependent child age 19-23, his/her coverage will end as of July 1 unless you actively certify his/her status as a full-time college student during Benefits Open Enrollment. This certification must be done every year, either online or by calling the Penn Benefits Center.*

*There are two parts to the student certification process. Once you’ve declared your child’s status during Open Enrollment, you’ve completed Part I. In late summer/early fall, you’ll receive a communication requesting paperwork to verify your child’s student status; this is Part II. You must complete both parts of the process (certify during Open Enrollment and submit verification of student status when requested) in order to maintain coverage for your child.

Premium Assistance through Medicaid and CHIP
If you’re unable to afford the premiums for Penn’s coverage, you may be able to get free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). For more information, visit the Division of Human Resources website at www.hr.upenn.edu/CHIP/Medicaid.

How Do I Find Out More?
• Attend a Benefits Open Enrollment Fair
• Visit the Human Resources website at www.hr.upenn.edu
• Call the Penn Benefits Center at 1-888-PENN-BEN (1-888-736-6236), Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.—6 p.m.
• Look for your personalized Benefits Open Enrollment packet at your home address in early April.
• E-mail Human Resources at askhr@hr.upenn.edu.

What’s Changing as of July 1, 2010?
As the global financial crisis continues, the road to full economic recovery remains uncertain. Throughout this period, the Penn community has pulled together as a team to keep the University moving forward and focused on our goals. In the Division of Human Resources, we continue to seek out ways to contain costs yet maintain our competitive benefits. We realize this is a difficult time for many of you financially, and Penn has made every effort to mitigate the premium increases for our health plans this year. To do this, we had to make some plan design changes that may cost you more out of your pocket in deductibles, copays, and coinsurance amounts. The good news is, we’re also making some changes that may save you money! All of the changes that will be made as of July 1, 2010 are listed here. As you review them, please keep in mind that you can take advantage of the Health Care Pre-Tax Expense Account to pay for eligible out-of-pocket expenses with pre-tax dollars. This is a great way to save money and reduce your taxes.

Medical Plans
A number of changes will be made to the medical plans as of July 1. These changes are described below.

Premiums: A premium is the amount an insurance carrier charges for benefits coverage. Penn pays a significant portion of the premium costs. The portion you’re responsible for is deducted from your paycheck each week or month.

All medical plans:
• Penn continues to pay the majority of the premium costs for medical, mental health and prescription drug coverage.

Copays and Coinsurance: A copay is the flat dollar amount you pay for certain services such as doctor visits. You only pay a copay on services that are otherwise covered at 100%. If services weren’t covered at 100%, you pay a coinsurance amount, which is the portion of covered medical bills that you pay once your annual deductible is satisfied.

Plan Changes:
• Keystone/AmeriHealth HMO and Aetna HMO
  • You’ll pay higher copays for most services.
  • UPHS POS and PENNCare/Personal Choice PPO
  • You’ll pay higher copays and coinsurance amounts for most services.

Deductibles and Out-of-Pocket Maximums: A deductible is the dollar amount you must pay each plan year before the plan begins to pay benefits. An out-of-pocket maximum is the highest amount you’re responsible for paying out of your own pocket for eligible medical expenses each year (not including what comes out of your paycheck). If your out-of-pocket costs reach the maximum during a plan year, your eligible medical costs are covered at 100% for the rest of that plan year. For the HMO plans, the out-of-pocket maximum applies only to copays since you don’t pay a deductible or coinsurance on any services in those plans. For the UPHS POS and PENNCare/Personal Choice PPO plans, you have a copay maximum and a separate coinsurance/deductible maximum.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coverage
As of July 1, all of Penn’s medical plans will cover mental health and substance abuse benefits at the same level as medical and surgical bene-
Benefits Open Enrollment and Health Fair
April 13; 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Houston Hall

Asking questions about your coverage and gather information at the Benefits Open Enrollment and Health Fair. Representatives from Penn’s healthcare providers and administrators will be onsite to share information about medical plans (Independence Blue Cross, Aetna), prescription drug coverage (CVS Caremark), vision coverage (Davis Vision), dental plans (Penn Faculty Practice, MetLife), pre-tax expense accounts (ADP) and the Penn Benefits Center (ADP). Penn’s retirement vendors—TIAA-CREF and Vanguard—will also be onsite to answer questions and provide information about retirement plans.

While at the fair, take advantage of free health screenings and wellness information on several topics, including blood pressure, cholesterol, glaucoma, Body Mass Index, recreation and fitness, women’s health, environmental safety and ergonomics, Employee Assistance Program, occupational and physical therapy, diabetes and heart health, oral and dental care and more. Pre-registration will be required for the cholesterol tests. To pre-register, visit the Human Resources online course catalog at www.hr.upenn.edu (click on “Course Catalog” at the top of the screen, then select “Health Promotions” from the “Browse by Category” menu).

New Bolton Center Benefits Open Enrollment Fair

Representatives from Penn’s healthcare providers and administrators will also be available to answer your questions at the New Bolton Center Benefits Open Enrollment Fair on April 14, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

Healthcare Rates for 2010–2011

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Healthcare Rates for 2010–2011

While it’s no surprise that healthcare costs are rising this year, Penn continues to pay a significant portion of the premium costs for benefits coverage. The new premium rates will take effect with your first June paycheck. Keep in mind that both the University and you pre-pay healthcare premiums one month in advance, so your June deductions pay for your July healthcare coverage.

—Division of Human Resources
Human Resources: Upcoming Programs

Professional and Personal Development

Improve your skills and get ahead in your career by taking advantage of the many development opportunities provided by Human Resources. You can pre-register for programs by visiting the online course catalog at www.hr.upenn.edu/coursecatalog or by contacting Learning and Education at (215) 898-3400.

Unlocking the Secrets of the Penn Library: April 8; noon–1 p.m.; free. Discover the ways the library can work for you. This session includes a 30-minute walking tour of Van Pelt-Dietrich Library. You’re welcome to attend just the informational session.

Mentors@Penn Information Session; April 9; noon–1:30 p.m.; free. Mentoring provides many benefits and opportunities, whether you are a mentor or mentee. Through a mentoring relationship, you can learn and grow, increase your own job satisfaction, and focus on your professional and career goals. At this information session, you’ll learn more about the program and find out how to apply.

Brown Bag Matinee—Corporate Legends and Lore; April 16; noon–1 p.m.; free. Every organization has unique legends and lore that have become part of the fabric of its identity. These corporate stories have tremendous power to increase productivity, combat change, and motivate employees. Corporate Legends and Lore demonstrates how you can tell stories about heroes, survivors, letting off steam, and more to motivate others and build personal influence.

Administrative Professionals Day—7 Keys to Worklife Balance; April 21; noon–1:30 p.m.; $25. Do you find it challenging to create a healthy balance between your personal and professional life? We can help you clarify your own professional and personal values and develop a new understanding of worklife balance. In this workshop, you’ll have the opportunity to define your idea of worklife balance, learn about the obstacles towards achieving this balance, and gain practical skills for juggling work and life. This annual event, in honor of our administrative professionals, includes both lunch and door prizes.

Career Focus Brown Bag—Tuition Benefit Information Session; April 28; noon–1 p.m.; free. Tuition benefits are an important advantage of being a faculty or staff member at Penn. This program will show you how to request and make the most of these benefits. A Q&A session will address any questions you have about using the tuition benefit for yourself, your family or your dependents.

Quality of Worklife Workshops

Dealing with the demands of work and your personal life can be challenging. These free workshops, sponsored by Human Resources and led by experts from Penn’s Employee Assistance Program and Quality of Worklife Department, offer information and support for your personal and professional life challenges. Pre-register to come to a brown bag lunch to the sessions. For more information or to register, visit the online course catalog at www.hr.upenn.edu/coursecatalog or contact Human Resources at (215) 573-2471 or kenne@upenn.edu.

Working with Rejection Professionally and Personally; April 8; noon–1:30 p.m.; free. Handling rejection can be difficult for many of us. But with the right strategies, it can yield positive outcomes. In this workshop, you’ll learn about some of the components of rejection as well as hands on techniques for coping with the associated emotions and consequences.

Reducing Pressure on the College Application Process; April 21; noon–1:30 p.m.; free. As a parent, the college application process can be overwhelming and lead to lots of questions:

What’s the right school for my child? Will he or she be accepted? How will I pay for it? These are just a few of the concerns parents face as their child prepares for college. But this workshop can help reduce your anxiety throughout this stressful time. You’ll learn how to develop an effective college planning process and timeline as well as tips for supporting your child and marketing him or her strengths as they apply to different schools.

Your Body: From Head to Toe—Part 3

Taking care of your health means being well informed, well prepared, and capable of making good choices when it comes to your body. This series of workshops, led by physicians and health experts from the University of Pennsylvania and the Health System, will address various health issues from head to toe and steps you can take to maintain a healthier lifestyle. Pre-registration is required for these workshops, which are sponsored by Human Resources. You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch to the sessions. For more information and to register, visit the Human Resources online course catalog at www.hr.upenn.edu/coursecatalog or contact Human Resources at (215) 898-5116 or suszsmith@upenn.edu.

Walking Difficulties and Your Brain: Symptoms, Causes and Cures; April 14; noon–1 p.m.; free. Although walking seems like a simple, everyday motion, it’s actually a complex process that involves cooperation among many parts of the body. But if you notice yourself losing control of this fundamental function, it’s cause for concern. This workshop will help you understand what your symptoms might be telling you and what steps you should take for assistance. The workshop will be led by Dr. Raymond Price, Neuromuscular Division, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Purchasing Services Annual Supplier Show: March 30

On Tuesday, March 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the 2010 Purchasing Services Annual Supplier Show will be held at The Palestra. We welcome all Penn staff and faculty members to participate in this year’s event “Marching into Mad Savings” and learn about our preferred supplier cost containment and new sustainability efforts in support of the University’s Climate Action Plan. This event will provide you with an opportunity to expand your knowledge about Penn preferred supplier product offerings and promotions, cost savings opportunities, and green purchasing initiatives from 103 suppliers. And try your luck at the hoops contest during the show, three in a row wins you a wall mount mini basketball game!!

New this year: A Penn Transit “Supplier Show Shuttle” will travel a five stop loop approximately every 15-20 minutes between 9:30 am and 1:30 p.m. Visit www.upenn.edu/gps to view pick-up locations.

Earth Hour Event at Penn/the Inn at Penn: March 27

Earth Hour, an initiative launched by WWF (World Wildlife Fund) three years ago, is a global call to action to take responsibility and to get involved in leading the way towards a sustainable future. By encouraging all of us to take a simple step, the Earth Hour movement symbolizes the impact that we can have by working together to protect our future.

This year, Penn and the Inn at Penn will be participating in Earth Hour on Saturday, March 27. This is just one way showing our commitment. All non-electric lighting will be turned off between 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and candlelight will be used throughout the restaurant and hotel. They will offer a three-course environmentally friendly meal featuring only local ingredients prepared by chef Roberto Adamo for $35 per person. Penn will be donating $5 to World Wildlife Fund for each menu sold that night.
PHOTOGRAPHER JUNE BAKES

Out on a Limb at Morris Arboretum

Casting call alert! Morris Arboretum in Chestnut Hill is calling for all babies born in July of 2009 to commemorate their one year birthdays along with Out on a Limb’s first birthday. If your baby was born last July and you want to have his/her photo taken Out on a Limb, e-mail the Arboretum at info@morrisarboretum.org. Out on a Limb is a completely safe and fully accessible permanent exhibit that takes visitors into the treetops, 50 feet up and allows them to experience the forest as never before. Twenty or so babies are needed for this photo, so e-mail info@morrisarboretum.org with the subject line of: Baby. This fun photo will be taken prior to the birthday party event on July 3, so it won’t interfere with enjoying Morris Arboretum’s birthday celebration.

25 Eyes of the Flâneuse: Women Photographers of the “New” New York, 1890s-1950s; Mary Woods, Cornell University; 5:30 p.m.; rm. 231 Fisher-Bennett Hall (History of Art).

31 Dying in the City of Brotherly Love: Homicide in Postwar Philadelphia; Eric Schneider, history; 5:30 p.m.; Benjamin Franklin Room, Houston Hall; RSVP: pennier@pobox.upenn.edu by March 26 (IUR).
Many instructors aspire to create a learning environment marked by creative thinking and collaboration, which in turn demands strategies that respond to conditions specific to a field and course. Teaching the history of contemporary art presents special challenges in that who and what counts is still being determined. The art of the last 30 years, in particular, resists narratives based on clearly defined movements or national traditions. Artists cross borders, use new and hybrid media, and sometimes act as curators or critics. The works they execute may look unfamiliar, seem devoid of aesthetic value, or even be offensive to some people. For these and other reasons, many students enter the classroom with a mix of attitudes, ranging from curiosity, to diffidence, to resentment; others may be passionate advocates of a particular medium, style, or artist. Whatever their attitudes, my goal is to open the door to a serious engagement with a broad spectrum of works of art, by guiding students as a broadening expertise and different points of view, and by encouraging students to ask questions and express their views. Rather than simply present information to be mastered, I offer historical contexts and critical frameworks, and also have students read significant essays in the field rather than rely on textbook synopses. Students also visit local museums and write about what they see, sometimes in relation to specific issues.

Although these strategies have been successful, especially in lecture courses, in my graduate and undergraduate seminars I now try to think more creatively about how to engage students as participants—producers to use Walter Benjamin’s term—rather than as viewers or consumers. One of the first steps was to find ways to encourage meaningful collaboration among the members of a seminar. One recent class focused on the works of Andy Warhol and Pop Art. We were able to take two trips, one to New York, the other to Pittsburgh for a visit to the Warhol Museum. In New York we viewed the Rauschenberg exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as the collection of Pop Art at MoMA (Museum of Modern Art). I don’t think any of the students will forget our mad dash across Fifth Avenue to the entrance of the Met, just seconds before the arrival of the St. Patrick’s Day parade. The trip to the Warhol Museum was illuminating; we spent an entire day with the museum’s comprehensive collection, viewed one of Warhol’s films, examined the objects preserved in one of his “Time Capsules,” and lounged on couches while looking at the Cow wallpaper on the walls. We posed for photo-booth pictures, remarked on how beautiful the “oxidation” works are (made by the artist asking guests to his studio to piss on specially prepared canvases), played with the helium-filled Silver Pillows, ate lunch in the silver cafeteria, and spent some time in the museum’s archive and library.

These intensive trips allowed the students to learn about one another’s projects standing in front of relevant works. When we came to the presentations of their papers-in-progress, the students took the lead in making cogent and helpful comments to their peers on how to develop their research and clarify their ideas. No doubt this was in part because the seminar was highly focused so that they all shared a body of knowledge; but it was also because they had already participated in the critical phase of shaping the initial topics, and had continued to engage in conversations on each other’s research throughout the semester. This class led me to realize how important it is to create a context in which collaboration can occur over time, rather than to limit it to specific assignments.

Another experiment in collaboration was the Vito Acconci seminar, which culminated in an exhibition at the Slought Foundation (40th and Walnut Streets) in spring 2008. Vito Acconci is one of the most ambitious and challenging artists of the last 40 years, with works ranging from concrete poetry, to performances, photography, video and film, installations, and more recently, architecture and public projects. Students in the seminar visited Acconci Studio in Brooklyn twice: they saw works in progress, spoke with several architects, considered how to exhibit photographs and videos originally made in performance events, and engaged the artist in conversation. On our second visit, the students interviewed Acconci, creating a film that was shown at the Slought exhibition and that is now distributed internationally. As part of the curatorial process, the students also viewed a number of early videos and selected those to be shown in the exhibition; they debated how best to present Acconci’s works to their fellow students; and they wrote essays on individual pieces that were scattered on a large “Poetry Table” along with the artist’s own photocopy writings. They created publicity for the show (designing the poster, postcard, and three large banners that were hung along Walnut Street), assisted with the installation, and some students later gave tours. They also worked closely with Aaron Levy, director of the Slought Foundation, and with Meredith Malone, curator at the Kemper Museum in St. Louis and co-curator of the exhibition. Given what is possible in a semester, and with a limited budget, the class and exhibition allowed students to interact with a living artist, and to collaborate on the organization of a show that posed interesting problems of presentation and conservation (in that many works were time-based, conceptual, or originally structured as performances).

This past fall I co-taught a freshman seminar focused on the Venice Biennale of 2009. Ruth Erickson (a graduate student and curator) and I worked together to produce the syllabus, to plan our trip to Venice, and to conceive projects that would be imaginative and participatory. Not surprisingly, we found extraordinary resources at Penn and at neighboring institutions. The Philadelphia Museum of Art represented the United States at the 2009 Biennale with a retrospective of the work of Bruce Nauman that was awarded the Golden Lion for the best national pavilion. Curators Carlos Basualdo and Erica Battle invited the class to the museum to discuss the artist’s work and the challenges of installing it, and later Erica Battle gave us a tour in Venice as well. We also spoke with Director Claudia Gould and the curators at the ICA about their views of the Biennale. Finally, Aaron Levy, who organized the US architecture pavilion in 2008, gave us a presentation of that exhibition. Through the interventions of these generous individuals, students became familiar with Philadelphia art museums and institutions, their role in organizing major international exhibitions, and about the complexities of mounting such shows.

Ruth and I also sought to make the learning process in the classroom collaborative and interactive. In Venice, students gave reports on selected artists; later they worked in teams to propose the theme for the Biennale of 2011 (many of their ideas were brilliant); they introduced assigned readings; and they gave oral presentations of their final research projects and participated in the discussions that followed.

In each of these seminars, working collaboratively has meant ceding a certain amount of control and redefining the goals of the course; rather than present material that is already familiar to me, I find myself learning along with my co-teachers, co-curators, colleagues, and students. The open-endedness of the process, which involves interacting with a network of individuals with various kinds of expertise and different points of view, has the effect of eroding the usual insider/outsider, teacher/student dichotomies; in my experience it also encourages students to become enthusiastic participants in the process of learning.

Christine Poggi is a professor of the history of art in the School of Arts and Sciences and a recipient of the 2009 Ira H. Abrams Memorial Award for Distinguished Teaching.

This essay continues the series that began in the fall of 1994 as the joint creation of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.

See www.upenn.edu/almanac/teach/teachall.html for the previous essays.